Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24 College student commits suicide,

UL parents allege harassment by teacher

No doubt Delimitation Commission has taken the TASK seriously but some more reworking is needed

Website: www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

Col CK Nayudu Trophy; J&K 121/3 against Bengal's 507

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

SCHOOLING **CBSE** The Shri Ram Nursery to 11th

Leopard enters BJP leader's residence in Srinagar STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A BJP leader had a narrow escape on Wednesday when a leopard entered into his official residence here while he was on a morning walk.

BJP's general secretary, Organisation, Ashok Koul, was on morning walk at his official residence at Church Lane, when a leopard suddenly appeared in the

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Post Art 370 repeal, terror activities declined; investment environment created in J&K: Sitharaman Corners Congress on killings of KPs in Kashmir

STATE TIMES NEWS NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday asserted that justice, democracy and economic development were reaching everyone in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 and an environment of normalcy was returning in the Union

The minister was replying to a discussion on the Budget 2022-23 for the Jammu and Kashmir (J-K) in Rajya Sabha. The Upper House later returned the relevant bills, completing the approval of the Rs 1.42-lakh-crore budget for the Union Territory by Parliament.

"The various impediments which prevailed in the state for industrial development have also been removed, and the industrial promotion scheme of J & K given by Government of India has

Parliament approves Rs 1.42 lakh crore budget for J&K

NEW DELHI: Parliament on Wednesday approved the Rs 1.42-lakh-crore budget for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for 2022-23, with Rajya Sabha returning the relevant bills to the Lok Sabha.

The Lok Sabha had passed the bills on March 14. The upper House returned the bills -- The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill, 2022, and The Jammu and

There was a brief exchange of words between Congress party members and treasury benches on terror-related activities in Jammu and Kashmir before the removal of Article 370 in 2019. Replying to the nearly

Kashmir Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2022.

Sitharaman said.

Currently, a delegation from the Gulf Cooperation countries is looking at possibilities of increasing their investment in the Union Territory, she said.

The minister also noted that investments worth Rs 3.000 crore were finalised during the Dubai Expo in 2022, and cited some agreements signed by private companies in this regard.

The minister also told the House that after the abrogation of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir, terror activities have significantly declined, and development works are being carried out in the Union Territory.

Sitharaman said there has been a 33 per cent drop in infiltration in 2021, a 90 per cent decrease in ceasefire violations, a 61 per cent decline in terrorism-related incidents, and an 80 per cent

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Kashmiriyat most effective tool to counter radicalisation: Sinha



LG Manoj Sinha addressing national symposium on counter-radicalisation at SKICC.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said Jammu and Kashmir has always been a land of syncretic culture, all faiths and beliefs and this inclusive society, spirit of Kashmiriyat is the most effective tool to counter radicalistion.

Addressing a national symposium on counter-radicalisation, a very significant initiative by youth, women and

Valley, at SKICC, the Lt Governor urged the community elders, religious heads and women to spread the message of Peace and Harmony among the new generation.

"Families, Islamic scholars play important role in challenging the ideology and countering the narrative that legitimises and supports terrorism. A strong force of women, youth and Islamic scholars will certainly make

resilient to terrorist ideology propagandists", he added.

25 MARCH 2022 **PLASTIC SURGEON** DR ADISH JAIN M.CH(PLASTIC SURGERY) CONSULTANT-PLASTIC SURGEON UROLOGIST DR. DAKSH MAHAJAN MBBS,MS(G.SURGERY), MCH (UROLOGY) CONSULTANT UROLÓGIST

+91-9622965050

The Lt Governor appreciated the efforts being made to discuss the role of religious leaders and women in counter-radicalization, preventing the youth from choosing wrong path, and creating a violence-free society

The Lt Governor reiterated that the responsibility of stopping the people to deviate from the right path lies on the shoulders of the community elders, religious heads and the enlightened people of the society.

"I believe that by following the path of peace, we can live the ideals inherent in our society and make the dreams of a better future a reality. The aim of every human being should be to live peacefully, do good to all and work in the interest of the nation", he said.

The Lt Governor said that the energies of the

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Time to open economy but with caution: Centre tells states, UTs

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: In view of a decline in COVID-19 cases, the Centre on Wednesday asked states to follow a risk assessment-based approach on the opening of economic and social activities. Union Health

Ministry, however, suggested necessary curbs in areas reporting over 10 per cent positivity rate or 40 per cent occupancy in either oxygensupported or ICU beds. The government stressed

for continued focus on the five-fold strategy of Test-Track-Treat-Vaccination and Covid Appropriate Behaviour,

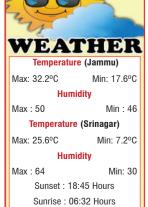
Congress, allies have no commitment for development of J&K: Goyal ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The government on Wednesday alleged that the opposition has no commitment for the development of Jammu and Kashmir and their "discrimination" against the Union Territory continues as

Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal made the allegations in Lok Sabha after an MP from Jammu and Kashmir, Hasnain Masoodi, could not properly ask a supplementary question during the Question Hour due to the protests and sloganeering by the opposition over the fuel price hike.

"This shows their (opposition) commitment towards Jammu and Kashmir. The Congress and its allies have been discriminating against Jammu and Kashmir for years and they are doing the same even now. They are not allowing an MP from Jammu and Kashmir to

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



while stating that a sustained and significant decline in the number of cases has been observed since the last couple of months.

In a letter to states and union territories, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan asked them to ensure sufficient availability of dedicated Covid health infrastructure as per the ongoing case trajectory and also directed them to fully operationalise non-Covid health services in all health facilities.

He also underlined the need to follow the home isolation protocol for

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant

development, the Member

(Judicial) Rajesh Sekhri of

J&K Special Tribunal

Jammu has reserved the

application of whistleblower

Advocate Muzzaffar Ali Shah

for orders wherein he has

sought his impleadment as

Party Respondent in appeal

filed by Mamta Singh, wife of

Dr Nirmal Singh, ex-Dy CM

against an order of demoli-

tion issued by JDA for rais-

ing a palatial house at village

Ban (Panjgrain), Jammu

allegedly without seeking any

building permission from

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ANTF nabs two drug smugglers with huge quantity of 'poppy straw'

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Anti-Narcotic Task Force (ANTF) of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Police, specialized unit to rising menace of Wednesday drugs, on achieved another success after it foiled a bid to smuggle huge quantity of Poppy Straw weighing upto over 90 kgs worth lakhs of rupees. Senior Superintendent of

Police (SSP) ANTF Jammu Vinay Sharma said, "On specific information that one Truck bearing registration No JK02BP-5135 driven by Anwar Hussain Shah, son of Altaf Hussain Shah of

Palatial Bungalow of former Dy-CM at Nagrota

Arguments completed, application

of whistleblower reserved for orders

JDA, after arguments were

When matter came up for

hearing on March 22, 2022

before the Bench led by

Rajesh Sekhri, Member(J),

Advocate Adarsh Sharma

appearing for JDA advanced

his arguments wherein he

also opposed impleadment of

whistleblower Adv Muzzaffar

Ali Shah in the appeal filed

by Mamta Singh against

order of demolition passed by

JDA. Adv R K Gupta

appearing for appellant

Mamta Singh had advanced

his arguments earlier when

whistleblower Adv Muzzaffar

completed by all parties.

Rajouri along with co-driver Mohd Iqbal, son of Sala Mohammad of Khawas Rajouri coming from Kashmir Valley and going outside J&K via Jammu has concealed large quantity of Poppy Straw. "On this information a

case FIR 03/2022 under Section 8/15/29 NDPS Act was registered at Police Station ANTF Jammu and ANTF team immediately swung into action and laid Naka at NHW-44 near Environmental Park Sidhra Narwal Bye Pass Road Jammu," he added.

Ali Shah submitted his argu-

ments on February 17, 2022

and matter was fixed for

After considering submis-

sions of rival parties and

keeping in view the urgency

and public interest involved

in matter, J&K Special

Tribunal has reserved appli-

cation for impleadment for

passing orders and has fur-

ther directed the registry to

list matter on April 6, 2022.

The court has further

extended the stay on demoli-

tion till next date of

hearing arguments

Counsel for JDA.

Anti Narcotics Task Force is investigating further links. More arrests are expected. Anti Narcotic Task Force has appealed general pub-

lic to share information regarding such drug dealers so that appropriate legal actions are taken against them and this menace is uprooted from our SSP ANTF J&K further

said, "The aforesaid truck was intercepted by the ANTF team and during through search of truck ANTF sleuths recovered 97 Kilograms and 900 grams

Petrol, diesel prices hiked for 2nd day in a row

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Petrol and diesel prices on Wednesday were hiked by 80 paise a litre each for the second day in a row since the ending of an over four-and-half month election-related hiatus.

Petrol in Delhi will now cost Rs 97.01 per litre as against Rs 96.21 previously while the diesel rate has gone up from Rs 87.47 per litre to Rs 88.27, according to a price notification of state fuel retailers.

In Mumbai, petrol price has been increased by 85 paise to Rs 111.67 while in Chennai prices went up by 75 paise to Rs 102.91.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

of Poppy Straw which was concealed in the truck." "The driver along with the

co-driver were arrested in the instant case and truck has been seized," Vinay added. "ANTF is investigating further links, the official

said, adding, "more arrests are expected in this regard," he said. SSP ANTF appealed to

the general public to share information regarding such drug dealers so that appropriate legal actions are taken against them and this menace is uprooted from our society.

Grenade-throwing module of LeT busted in J&K; 4 held

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A grenadethrowing module of proscribed terror outfitLashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) was busted here on Wednesday with the arrest of four terrorist-associates and recovery of four hand grenades, police

According to a police spokesperson, an overground worker (OGW) of the LeT, identified as Zubair Sheikh, a resident of Elahi Bagh Soura, was intercepted by a police team during a naka checking at Bemina Chowk in the evening and a hand grenade was recovered from his possession.

Policeman injured in grenade attack near Srinagar mosque SRINAGAR: A policeman

was injured in a grenade attack by terrorists in Rainawari area of Srinagar the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday. Terrorists hurled the grenade towards the security personnel near Zind Shah mosque this evening, an official said. Police constable Mohammad Amin received minor splinter injuries in the

Sheikh was put

explosion, he said.

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Kashmir's Tulip Garden opens for public

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Asia's largest tulip garden overlooking the famous Dal Lake here was thrown open to the public on Wednesday, marking the beginning of the new tourism season in the Kashmir Valley.

Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden, formerly known as Siraj Bagh, was opened in 2008 by then chief minister of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state Ghulam Nabi Azad.

The idea of the garden, spread over 30 hectares in the foothills of the snow-clad Zabarwan range, was conceived to advance the tourism season in the valley by two



Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta opening Tulip garden for public.

The garden was thrown open to the public by Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta on Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters, Mehta said the last six months have seen the highest-ever tourist footfall in the He said the tourism has

been revived and people are

not getting rooms as hotels in the valley are fully booked.

While speaking at the inaugural function. Mehta stated that the government is expecting arrival of heavy tourist influx this year as compared to last year. "The later part of 2021 had broken past records of

42 T&D projects executed by JKPDD inaugurated J&K's power generation capacity to be doubled in 3 yrs, trebled in 7 years: LG

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■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: Lieutenant Governor Manoi Sinha on Wednesday said the power generation capacity in Jammu and Kashmir is set to be doubled in three years and trebled in seven years. "We have initiated a large-

scale capacity augmentation programme, to address the current power deficit". Sinha said while inaugurating 42 Transmission and Distribution projects, execut-J&K Power ed by Development Department (JKPDD), worth Rs 357 crores, here at Anantnag, adding that in the past 70

was able to harness only The Lt Governor said that

years Jammu and Kashmir



Distribution Project after inaugurating it.

the newly executed power projects will substantially improve the power supply in all 10 districts of the Kashmir Division. 'I believe the operationalization of these augmented facilities will ensure all-round development in the region', he added. Recalling that in August Hon'ble Prime Minister had laid the foundation of a developed and progressive Jammu & Kashmir,

the Lt Governor noted that

the UT administration had

ensured to the common citizens the access to basic necessities of quality roads. electricity and water on pri-

While speaking on the reforms introduced by the government, the Lt Governor highlighted the initiatives taken to strengthen and improve J&K's power infrastructure which remained dilapidated for the last several decades.

"Our AT&C losses are high and it is our social obligation to make power a self-sustaining, fast-growing sector of J&K", the Lt Governor said. Currently, Transmission & Distribution projects worth Rs 2000 crore are being completed, and an additional amount of Rs 6000 crore has

been allocated by the central government to strengthen the Sub-Transmission & Distribution network across the UT. This will help the administration to bridge the basic infrastructural gap between cities and villages, observed the Lt Governor.

Complimenting the workforce of JKPDD for setting new standards in the timely completion of power projects. the Lt Governor said that the aim of the administration is to provide quality electricity to all citizens and businesses. These augmented facilities will address the important need of the growing economy, the Lt Governor said. Since August 2019, 3806

MVA has been added to

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 **India rejects Chinese foreign** minister's comments on J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India on Wednesday rejected as "uncalled" for Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's references to Jammu and Kashmir in an address at a meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Pakistan, asserting matters relating to the union territory are entirely internal to

the country. India's rejection of Wang's comments came in the midst of hectic consultations between the two sides over a possible visit by him to New Delhi in the next two days.

"We reject the uncalled reference to India by the Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi during his speech at the opening ceremony," External Affairs Ministry

Bagchi said, in response to Wang's reference to Jammu and Kashmir in his speech at the OIC meeting. Bagchi said matters related

to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are "entirely" internal affairs of "Other countries including

China have no locus standi to comment. They should note that India refrains from public judgement of their internal issues," he said.

Bagchi was responding to media queries on the comments by Wang.

"On Kashmir, we have heard again today the calls of many of our Islamic friends. And China shares the same hope," Wang said at the OIC meeting.